A

MEMORIAL

Delivered to His

MAJESTY

(July $\frac{21}{31}$ 1664.)

From the

Lord *VAN-GOHG*,

Ambaſſador from the STATES GENERAL of the UNITED PROVINCES.

Tranſlated into Engliſh.

With the

ANSWER

Which His Sacred

MAJESTY

returned thereunto.

Edinburgh, Re-printed in the year 1664

THE MEMORIAL OF THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO HIS MAJESTY.

SIR,

HE under-written Ambassador of the States General of the United Netherlands, *Your good Friends and Allies, having had the honour of several Audiences with Your* Majesty, *and therein made known to You such Orders as he hath from time to time received from his Masters, upon occasion of, and concerning divers Affairs, and especially these following: To wit,*

Seing it is understood and perceived, that Vessels of War are fitting and preparing on both sides, which if they go forth to Sea and meet there together, might by some misunderstanding, fall foul upon one another; Your Majesty

would therefore be pleaſed to keep back Your Fleet, and ſuffer it to go to Sea; as their Lordſhips offer on their p to do; the whole intent and deſign tending only to t ſafety of both parties, and the prevention of the foreſa ſiniſter encounters.

Moreover, whereas their Lordſhips have been informe that Captain Holmes, *with the Veſſels under his comman hath now again (as heretofore) done very great and eno mous injuries to the Netherlandiſh Company of the W* Indies, *by taking divers of their Veſſels upon the Coaſt* Africk, *as alſo by making himſelf Maſter of ſome Plac and Forts belonging unto them, and namely amongſt othe of* Capo Verde, *&c. which is directly contrary, not on to the Treaty laſt concluded between Your* Majeſty *and t States of the United Provinces, but alſo to mutual ami and good neighbourhood: The ſaid Ambaſſador did ther fore, in the name of his Superiors, demand reſtitution the ſame, and that reparation might be made of the damag and intereſts which the ſaid Company and other Subjec of their Lordſhips who were concerned, have ſuffered ther by; as alſo, that the like proceedings and violences migh be prevented for the future by an expreſs Order.*

In the third place, that their Lordſhips, being from da to day confirmed by certain Intelligence coming from tha Coaſt, that the foreſaid action of Captain Holmes *ha not only been effected in the manner above-ſpecified, bu alſo that he was intended to carry on his deſign further, by making incurſions and ſeiſing upon all the Coaſt, and that for his better ſucceſs therein, he expected a notable ſupply of Ships from* England, *as the whole matter may be proved by the teſtimony and depoſitions of credible per-*

ſon

ſons newly come from thence: Which actions being without right, reaſon and equity, and which conſequently cannot be endured, nor looked upon with a good eye, Your Majeſty *was entreated that it might be Your good Pleaſure to command as well the ſaid Captain* Holmes, *as others who were in that engagement, or are held to have been employed therein, not only to reſtore the foreſaid Forts and Veſſels ſo taken, and to repair the damages thereby ſuffered (as reaſon requires) but alſo that the Ships which by report are now ready to ſet Sail, or which may be fitting for that end, may, by Your* Majeſties *expreſs Command, be prohibited and charged not to do or cauſe any other injury or damage to the ſaid Company, or to any other the Subjects of the United Provinces.*

Fourthly, Foraſmuch as the poor and afflicted reformed Churches in the vallies of Piedmont *have repreſented, that after the agreement made with his Royal Highneſs the Duke of* Savoy *ſome while ſince, they are again overwhelmed and ruined by exactions and charges required of them to defray the expenſes of the Army which the ſaid Duke had commanded againſt them, which charges amounted to ſo high a ſum, that it was impoſsible for them to make it up, for the reaſons more at large alledged in their Remonſtrance; Therefore they have deſired the interceſsion of the States General with Your* Majeſty, *that Your Ambaſſador in the Court of* France *may have order to procure from his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty (as being Mediator between his ſaid Royal Highneſs and them) as much favour and comfort to thoſe poor afflicted Churches as can poſsibly by any means be obtained.*

And finally, conſidering that the Veſſels coming from the United Provinces into the Rivers, Streams and Roads

of this Kingdom, are ſtopped there under pretence that there be Perſons and Commodities on board which come from places infected with the Plague, or at leaſt ſuſpected to be ſo, by which means the freedom of Trade and Paſſage is obſtructed and diſturbed, to the great prejudice of the inhabitants of both Nations: The ſaid Ambaſſador therefore inſiſted thereupon, that the ſame might be remedied, or at leaſt that the ſtrictneſs of thoſe Orders might be mitigated in ſuch meaſure as in reaſon ſhall be found convenient; And that the rather, becauſe, by the mercy of God, all the Provinces in general are not infected with the Contagion.

To all that is aboveſaid, Your Majeſty hath been pleaſed to anſwer in effect; to wit, upon the firſt point, touching keeping of the Fleet from going to Sea, That the numbers which were fitted and prepared on Your Majeſties ſide being no way extraordinary, but only for common and cuſtomary uſe, and without deſign of bringing any damage or inconvenience upon the inhabitants of the United Provinces; the ſaid Veſſels could not be kept from going to Sea, becauſe Your Majeſties Honour was engaged therein; Nevertheleſs, that You would give ſuch Orders to the Chief Commander of Your ſaid Fleet, that their Lordſhips ſhall have no cauſe to apprehend any ſiniſter encounters from it.

As to the ſecond, touching the action of Captain Holmes; Your Majeſty thought good to anſwer thereunto, That You had received no information of it, and that having given no Order for his ſo doing, You would cauſe reparation to be made, if the matter proved to be true. and that the ſaid Captain Holmes ſhould be puniſhed according as the caſe ſhould require: Nevertheleſs adding thereunto afterwards at another Audience, that the Weſt-India

Company

Company had likewiſe done much damage to Your Majeſties *Subjects upon the ſaid Coaſt, pretending to be Maſters thereof to themſelves alone; which thing ought to be conſidered alſo in its proper ſeaſon, judging it unreaſonable and unjuſt that the Trade of the* Engliſh *upon that Coaſt ſhould continually be diſturbed and hindred.*

And as to the third, Your Majeſty *was pleaſed to ſay as before, That You had received no information of* Holmes *his actions in thoſe parts; and for ſo much as concerned the Ships which are ready to ſet Sail towards the Coaſt of* Africk, *that they were not in a condition to make any attempt there, being only Merchant-men, unto which there was added but one Man of War for their Convoy.*

For what regards the poor Piemontoies, *That You were ſenſibly touched with the miſerable condition of thoſe Churches and People, and for that reaſon Your* Majeſty *had already given Order to Your Ambaſſador in* France *to contribute unto their relief and comfort in Your Name; But foraſmuch as at preſent there occur ſome new difficulties concerning the ſaid Churches, Your* Majeſty *would adviſe more particularly thereupon.*

And laſtly, concerning the Merchants Ships which come from the United Provinces into this Kingdom, and are ſtopped without permiſsion to Land any where, becauſe they are ſuſpected to come from ſome place infected with the ſickneſs, there being no diſtinction made between Provinces and Cities really afflicted with the ſaid Contagion, and thoſe which are not ſo at all; That Your Majeſty *having an extraordinary apprehenſion of that diſeaſe, had great reaſon to uſe all poſsible precaution againſt it;*

Notwithſtanding, that the buſineſs ſhould alſo be thought upon more fully.

All which points aboveſaid having been repeated by the ſaid Ambaſſador at his laſt Audience, and inſtance thereupon made, that according to their Lordſhips deſires Your Majeſty *would be pleaſed to explain Your Self in Writing, to put the minds of his Superiors out of perplexity and diſquiet; and Your* Majeſty *having to that purpoſe deſired, that all ſhould be compriſed in a* Memorial *for an Anſwer to be given thereunto in Writing: The ſaid* Memorial *(May it pleaſe Your* Majeſty*) is here moſt humbly preſented, with like prayer, that ſuch Order may be taken therein, as that by a favourable anſwer (which the ſaid Ambaſſador expects from Your* Majeſty*) he may be enabled to give his Maſters content.*

M. Van-Gogh.

From *Chelſey*,
July $\frac{21}{31}$ 1664.

HIS

HIS *MAJESTIES*

ANSWER

To the fore-going

MEMORIAL.

THe Ambaſſador of the United Provinces having ſo particularly ſet down the Anſwers he received from Us in his ſeveral Audiences to his particular demands; albeit We think he may well acquieſce with the ſame, yet ſince he hath thought fit by his Memorial, to deſire an Anſwer in writing, We are very well pleaſed to ſatisfie him herein, that the States General may ſee the ſincerity of Our proceedings towards them.

Concerning the preparations and proviſion of Veſſels of War, it is notoriouſly known, that in the beginning of this year We gave order for the providing a leſs guard of Ships for the Summer, then hath been ſet out any year ſince our happy Reſtoration for that ſeaſon, believing Our Self to be in ſo good Intelligence with all Our Neighbours, that We might [illegible]

charge; when Our Parliament, upon the cry of the whole Nation, with ſome earneſtneſs preſſed Us to take an extraordinary way to repair Our people, for the many and daily injuries they ſuſtained from the Subjects of the United Provinces by depredations at Sea, in other places as well as in the *Eaſt-Indies*, in which there were ſome circumſtances of that preſumption, in declaring their Dominion and inhibiting of Commerce againſt the Law of Nations, as all Princes are equally concerned therein with Us; We made no other anſwer to Our Parliament, then that We made no doubt but that Our good Allies, the States of the United Provinces, to whom in truth the injuries ſuſtained could not reaſonably (We thought) be imputed, would cauſe juſtice to be done; in order to which, We would appoint Our Miniſter reſiding there to make a repreſentation and complaint. For which temper and moderation (which it may be, another reſolution, conſidering the nature of the provocations, would have been more agreeable to the deſires of Our Parliament) We expected the thanks of Our good Neighbours, when on the contrary they no ſooner received advice of this Anſwer returned by Us, then in a very extraordinary manner they gave direction for the preſent ſetting out of a very great number of Ships of War, without any other viſible cauſe, then to manifeſt to the world how much they deſied Us and Our Parliament. Upon all which, as We ſhould have been thought to have had very little foreſight for our Honour or Intereſt, if We had not prepared a conſiderable Fleet for Our defence, (the charge and expence whereof We would have been very glad to have prevented) ſo the ſame being prepared, it will be thought a very ſtrange propoſition, that it be

kept within the Ports; and it will be found by their demeanour, that their Inſtructions are not to do any injury to Our Neighbours and Friends, but to defend Our Self, Our Dominions and Our Subjects from receiving injuries from Our enemies. Nor in truth can we believe or imagine, that the United Provinces (from whom We have deſerved well, and with whom We are ready to maintain a faſt friendſhip, to which many other conſiderations, beſides that great one of the Proteſtant Religion, ſhould diſpoſe both of Us) will deny to do Us juſtice upon Our reaſonable demands, or that they will ever ſacrifice the Peace of their Country for the ſupport of the miſcarriages of particular perſons, or a particular Company, who We find by experience more conſiders their own profit and intereſt, then the honour or ſafety of the Government under which they live; which the States General will well weigh and conſider.

As We did with great frankneſs, and as an everlaſting manifeſtation of Our affection and kindneſs, conclude the late Treaty with the United Provinces, by which many very memorable diſcourteſies and injuries to Our Self and Our people, and particularly that of *Amboyna*, were put in oblivion; So We have moſt exactly obſerved every Article on Our part, and have no ſooner been moved in any particular, in which the Subjects of the United Provinces have been grieved, then We have given order for their redreſs, in the moſt expedite way, without putting them to thoſe formalities which are uſual in Courts of Juſtice: whereas We are very ſory to ſay, that upon all the complaints made at the *Hague* by Our Miniſter, in which the matter of Fact hath been moſt notorious and convincing, and the Right

moſt apparent, redreſs hath not been given to any one, and ſuch delayes uſed in all, as are upon the matter, and in the conſequence of it, a plain denial of Juſtice, which brings every day great complaints to Us from Our Subjects of all parts: Notwithſtanding all which, We have not to this day granted one Letter of Mart upon the Subjects of the United Provinces.

Concerning Captain *Holmes*, We have with great ſincerity aſſured the Ambaſſador, that he had no Commiſſion to take *Capo Verde*, nor any other place belonging to the Dutch, or to do any Act of Hoſtility upon any of the Subjects of the United Provinces, that was not for the defence of Our Subjects and their Trade into thoſe parts: And we cannot but expect, that this Our free Declaration ſhould find more credit with Our Allies, then any informations or examinations of Mariners and Sea-men, who ſeldom know what they inform. We expect the ſaid Captain *Holmes* his arrival here every day, and will then, upon due enquiry into all that he hath done, determine what is juſt. The Ships at preſent deſigned for thoſe parts are Ships of Trade, and have neither power nor will to wrong the Subjects of the United Provinces. But we are very heartily ſorry to hear, not from general rumour, or the looſe diſcourſes of hear-ſayes, but from the pregnant evidence and full information of Our Governour of Our Fort of *Carmantine*, That about the end of *Fanuary* laſt, the Commanders of the Ships belonging to the Dutch *Weſt-India* Company, after many aſſaults upon Our Merchants Ships in thoſe Seas, and forbidding and reſtraining them from Trade, did ſtir up and hire the King of *Fantine* to aſſault and ſurprize that Our Caſtle of *Car-*

mantine, and to put the ſame into their hands for the price of ſixty *Bendys*, whereof one half was payd down by the ſaid Dutch Commanders, with this condition likewiſe, that the ſaid Natives ſhould enjoy to themſelves all the plunder of that Our ſaid Caſtle. In purſuance of which infamous Contract, and the better to enable them to perform the ſame, the Dutch Commanders ſupplied the ſaid King of *Fantine* with a good quantity of Muskets, Powder and Cartages; whereof Our Commander having notice, by the bleſſing of God ſurprized the ſame: which it may be is one of thoſe Acts of Hoſtility whereof mention is made in this Memorial, We having no notice of any other. Two Men of War, belonging to the Dutch Company, came from the *Mina* to *Cape Coaſt* to attend this enterprize at the time appointed, and accordingly the King of *Fantine* upon the fifth day of *February* laſt came with five hundred men in hope to have ſurprized Our Caſtle; but finding himſelf diſcovered, and forced ro retire with ſome loſs, he advanced again the next day with a Body of three thouſand men, and continued a ſharp fight with Our men for the ſpace of four hours, after which time he was beaten off with great loſs, and hath ſince with ſhame and ſorrow acknowledged his breach of faith towards Us, and declared the motives and Contract aforeſaid; the Dutch Ships at the ſame time driving a ſmall Ship belonging to Our Merchants under the command of Captain *Borthwick* into Our Port *Inaſhange*, anchored by him, hindred all the Canoes from coming on board him, and took his Boat and five men, which they would not reſtore till they found their other enterprize had miſcarried. We cannot in any degree doubt that the States of the United Provinces will manifeſt their

deteſtation of this perfidious deſign, and cauſe exem plary Juſtice to be done upon the Perſons guilty of it which We expect and require; and that inſtead of send ing Ships of War to juſtifie theſe unwarrantable an ſcandalous proceedings, (which would be attended with ill effects, and would inſenſibly produce a War betwee the two Nations, which we deſire to prevent) thei Wiſdoms will reprehend and warn their *Weſt-Indi* Company, that they hereafter forbear thoſe outrages, and that they do not preſume under the ſtile of Mer chants to uſurp the Prerogative of Princes, and aſſume ſuch a Dominion to themſelves, as if it were in truth veſted in them, would not warrant them to inhibi Traffique and Commerce with their Neighbours, bu muſt incenſe all Chriſtian Princes againſt their pre ſumption.

Concerning the Reformed Churches in the valleys o *Piedmont*, towards whom We have expreſſed Our com paſſion and charity in a contribution ſince Our happ Reſtoration, as We will be alwayes ready to relieve an protect the afflicted ſtate of any Proteſtant Churches t Our Power; We being not fully informed of their co dition, or the grounds of their late ſufferings, kno not what more to do, then to deſire the moſt Chriſt an King to uſe his mediation, which We doubt not bu he will do upon the deſire of Our Ambaſſador in Ou name, and acccording to Our directions.

We are exceedingly afflicted for thoſe places with the Dominions of the United Provinces which are preſent infected with the Plague, and do heartily pr to God that he will ſpeedily withdraw that his Viſi tion from them, and in the mean time do in a great deg

ſuffer with them, by the ſuſpending that Traffique and Commerce which is ſo much for the good of both Nations: But it cannot be expected or deſired, that We will neglect or decline that provident care of Our People which is due to them, in uſing all poſſible means to preſerve them from that Contagion, which cannot be done without ſuch reſtraints, which are for the preſent with great loſs and damage to both People, and to which We hope the goodneſs of God will ſhortly put a period, by making the correſpondence as ſafe and wholſome as it hath been, and reſtoring perfect health to the places now infected, as well as to their Neighbours, who cannot but in a degree ſuffer with them, though they are not under the ſame calamity.

We having now complyed with the Ambaſſadors deſires, in giving this particular Anſwer in writing to his Memorial, and to all that he hath propoſed to Us, We make no queſtion but he will faithfully tranſmit the ſame to Our good Friends and Allies the United Provinces; and We deſire him the ſaid Ambaſſador to aſſure them, that We are ſo firmly reſolved to maintain a firm Amity and Friendſhip with them, that a War (by the bleſſing of God) cannot fall out between Us, except they depart from all Rules of Juſtice, and ſuffer their Subjects to involve them in a War to ſupport the wrong they do their Neighbours againſt all Right; which we are moſt confident they will never be induced to do, and which miſchief (of which no man can foreſee the end) their great Wiſdoms will prevent.

CHARLES R.

By His *Majeſties* Command,